FFA Livestock Improvement Project

Tye Beasley, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover P. Beasley, Jr. has accepted the responsibility of a purebred Angus bull from the Virginia Livestock Improvement Project, sponsored by the Va. Association of Future Farmers of America.

An agreement between Tye and the local chapter has been made. He will keep the bull for 24 months and will be fed a complete and balanced ration. it will be trained to lead so it may be easily and safely handled, and taken care of properly.

Tye is preparing the bull so that it wil be in top condition for the state fair this fall. The young bull was purchased from the herd of Julian Adams of Lynchburg.

The Virginia Livestock Improvement Project is one of the many ways that the FFA is helping young men to become established in the business of agriculture.

by Joe Ford, Reporter

Tye Beasley and his latest agriculture project, a young registered Black Angus Bull, are shown above. Tye plans to show this bull at the State Fair this coming year.

COMPLETES AIR FORCE BASIC TRAINING

SAN ANTONIO Airman John A. Smith, Jr., of Rt. 4, Appomattox, Va., has been assigned to Keesler AFB, Miss., after completing Air Force basic training.

During his six weeks at the Air Traning Command's Lackland AFB, Tex., he studed the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special instruction in human relations.

The airman has been assigned to the Technical Training Center at Keesler for specialized training in the Armament systems field.

Airman Smith is a 1973 graduate of Appomattox County High School.

FALL FOOD REVIEW

Higher valued beef cuts - steaks and roasts are still exhibiting a downward price trend, while many are offered on special. Excellent features are advertised on pork, while baron has climbed down to a lower price level. Most poultry prices have increased this week, especially turkey. The best buys are whole and cut up fryers being featured at several stores.

Vegetable roundup shows "salad fixings" are plentiful from Florida while snaps are in good supply, but past their fall peak volume. Check the specials or good buys on broccoli, onions and turnips.

Citrus plus apples, bananas and grapes are the fruit plentifuls at low prices.

ASC Community Commitee Election Results Announced

Results of the December 3rd election of ASC community committeemen for 1974 were announced today by James R. Ford, Jr., chairman of the Appomattox county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committee.

Farmers elected to the committees were Stonewall J. P. Alvis, Jr.; Vice Chairman, J. A. Martin; Member: R. T. Megginson, 1st. Alternate: J. Lyle Moore, 2nd Alternate, Sam D. Davidson.

Cloverhill Chairman: W. D. Hix, III, W. O. Slagle, Member: E. M. Covington; 1st. Alternate: M. J. Coleman: 2nd Alternate: J. H. Rosser.

Southside, W. D. Hunter, Jr; Vice-Chairman, A. B. Carson, Jr.; Member: E. W. Mullins; 1st. Alternate, Harold B. Jones; 2nd Alternate: Paul Sarver.

The Chairman also announced the county ASC convention to be held on December 17 at 9:00 a.m. in the ASCS office, where farmers will be elected to fill vacancies ou the county ASC committee. Mr. Ford said convention delegates will also elect a county committee chairman, vice-chairman, and two alternates to the committee for the coming year.

The recently - elected ASC community committee chairmen, vice - chairmen and third regular member automatically become delegates to the county convention, Mr. Ford said.

ASC county and community committees are in charge of local administration of such national farm programs as tobacco marketing q u o t a s, wheat and feed grain, commodity loans and storage facility loans Mr. Ford said. Last year he pointed out, over 700 farmers about 70 percent of all farmers in the county took part in one or more of the programs administered by the ASC committees.

FOOD SHOPPERS

By Cathy B. Hinton
Virginia Department of Agriculture.

There's nothing better than fresh baked oatmeal cookies packed with raisins. But, have you checked your grocer's shelves recently? There is a severe shortage of raisins, although they should be returning to market in the near future. Of course, they will be sold at a higher price due to numerous factors. Let's look behind the scenes to see the"how" and "why" of the raisin shortage and predicted price increase.

Last year's raisin production was affected by many factors including bad weather, decreased land for production and the increased popularity of"pop wines". On the other hand, this year's crop is one of the biggest and best. But, even though there is an abundance of raw material rising demands will affect this year's raisin supply

Grapes are divided into three categories - wine, raisin and table grapes. The increased consumer demand for wine has caused wineries to offer higher prices for grapes. The action encourages more growers to sell to wine makers rather than produce raisin or table grapes.

Another factor influenceing this shortage is that there was a poor grape harvest in otner parts of the world which caused an increased world demand for raisins.

On additional deterrent is now occuring. The manufacturers have the raisins ready for market, but are having trouble with transportation. This is an important link with your grocery store. As soon as this matter is rectified, raisins will reappear on your grocer's shelf.

Many consumers depend on their favorite recipes which use raisins. Perhaps other dried fruits such as apricots, apples, pears, peaches, dates or figs could be substituted. Nuts make a good substitute also. No matter what dried fruit you plan to use, remember to store all unused portions in tightly sealed containers and store in a dark, cool place to preserve flavor, texture and color.

Appomattox Man Praised In Letter To Forum

In a Letter to the Forum that appeared in THE NEWS on Sunday, an Appomattox man was praised for saving the life of a small child during the annual Christmas parade in Lynchburg.

The letter, as it appeared in the Lynchburg newspaper follows:

Editor of The News:

Tuesday night, Dec. 4th was the annual Lynchburg Christmas Parade. My mother, myself and some friends had arrived at 6:30 p.m., bringing 3 small children with us. We stood in the street at 9th and Main, near the Judges' stand, as we have done for the past several years. We stood for an hour waiting for the parade to start. The children were all excited; then as the parade was about to start, a judge came over to us and said, "Move back or move out!" When we asked him why, he said, "So the judges can see." The space in front of the Judges' stand had been cleared and the judges could have seen fine. When someone suggested that the judges stand up like everyone else, the judge did not have a reply.Then the people finally did move a little, there were some grown-ups standing partly in front of the children.

I would like to commend the alert National Guardsman who was standing near us. This Guardsman saved a boy from great injury or possible death. The boy, who looked to be about 12 or 13 years old, saw the Virginia National Bank truck coming up the street. The people in this truck were throwing candy. I guess that the boy wanted a piece of candy. But, before he thought, he jumped out in front of the truck. He was grabbed back, just in time, by the guardsman. The truck missed him only by inches! The Guardsman was very upset for awhile by this. I do not know his name, but-Congratulations for a job well done!

Lisa C. Woody
Madison Heights

Junior Class Holds Ring Assembly

On December 11, the Junior Class at Appomattox County High School held a ring assembly, the first of its kind at the school. Pictured above with their new rings are the Junior Class officers; First row, left to right: Brenda Garrett, vice president; Kaye Chenault, secretary; Mary Louise Parris, chaplain and Mrs. Covington, Junior Class sponor. Second row, left to right; Sheila Franklin, reporter; Steve Lamb, parliamentarian; Donna Paulette, treasurer and Hal Smith, president.

Christmas Concert

Williamsburg - This year's Yule celebrations will mark the 25th consecutive Christmas concert by the Choir of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. The Bruton Parish Choir, Chorale and Chamber Singers, under the direction of Mary Charles Braswell, will present its annual "Pappy" Feher Christmas concert before capacity audiences in Bruton Parish Church on Sunday, December 16th at 4 and 8 p.m. Dr. Feher retires as Director of Music at Bruton Parish Church at the end of this year.

This year Feher will conduct the Bruton Parish Choir and Chamber Singers as well as the Chorale and Orchestra of the College of William and Mary Symphony orchestra. Selections from Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 11, 12 and 13 at 8:15 p.m. at Phi Beta Kappa Hall, again at 8:15 p.m.

Among those participating in the programs will be Sally Terry of Appomattox.

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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa,

Please don't forget me-I'm little, but I've been good! (Just ask my "Nanny"!) Please bring me a toy monkey, a doll baby, a few more toys and a few clothes. Please be good to all the "good kids"! Please wish everyone you see, a Merry Christmas for me!

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Dana Juliet (Julie) Smith

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1970 Chevrolet
KINGWOOD Estate Station Wagon - 400 V-8 Turbo Hydra Transmission - Power Steering & Brakes - Air Condition - Radio - Wall Tires - Extra Clean

TRUCKS

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1972 Chevrolet
FLEETSIDE - ½ Ton Pickup - 350 V-8 Standard Transmission - Radio - Rear Step Bumper - Low Mileage - One Owner

1969 Chevrolet
FLEETSIDE ½ Ton Pickup - 350 V-8 Standard Transmission - 8 Ft. Body - Radio - Rear Step Bumper - One Owner

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PURITAN PULPIT

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Faithfulness is an attribute of God and fickleness is an attribute of fallen man. If God were not faithful He would not be God. "Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the FAITHFUL God" Deut. 7:9. "Great is They FAITHFULNESS" Lam. 3:23.

When we look at things in a sinful world how very different they are from God. Unfaithfulness is one of the most common sins of these evil days. It is glorified in modern songs. Infidelity in marriage, political lying, international treaty breaking, economic exaggeration and religious adultery are our milestones of madness.

However, to the believer in Christ the attribute of God's faithfulness is one of the sweetest and most comforting of all His moral attributes. It is a pillow for the weary head, a stimulant for a fainting heart and a brace for feeble knees. "If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful; He cannot deny Himself." II Tim. 2:13.

The old and New Testament words for faithfulness have a basic meaning of "to prop up" or "to support." God can be relied upon is a general meaning.

DEFINING God's faithfulness is not easy. We could say it is that perfection of God's nature whereby He infallibly fulfills His designs or performs His word. The unchanging faithfulness of God is above man's understanding. "Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and Thy faithfulness unto the clouds" Ps. 36:5.

The DISTRIBUTION of God's faithfulness to the world in general and nature in particular. To the world in general there was the promise to never destroy the earth with a flood again. This was confirmed with a covenant, a token—the rainbow. Since then His faithfulness is seen in 4000 years that have elapsed. Gen. 9:11-16; Isa. 54:9. Also, the sun, moon and stars have never departed their course, Jer. 31:35-36; 33:25. To nature in particular there is His faithfulness for the revolutions of time and season. Gen. 8:22. There is His constant care for His creatures. Acts. 14:17; Ps. 36:5,6.

The DEMONSTRATION AND DESCRIPTION of His faithfulness. First, God is faithful to Himself. He will faithfully perform all that He has purposed. "He is FAITHFUL: He cannot deny Himself" II Tim. 2:13; Dan. 4:35. Second, God is faithful to His Son. The prophecies concerning Him have been perfectly fulfilled. He was faithful to perform what He promised Christ-Christ could say, "All power is given to me in heaven and in earth." Faithfulness was demonstrated in the person, offices and works of Christ. Third, God is faithful to His Word. "For He is faithful that promised" Heb. 10:32. Every promise was doubly sealed in Christ. II Cor. 1:20; Isa. 53:10,11 Fourth, God is faithful to His people. "Faithful is He that called you." Spiritually He is faithful to us. I Cor. 1:9. He supports us in temptation. I Cor. 10:13, and encourages us under persecution. I Peter 4:12,13,19; Isa. 41:10. He supports us in trouble by sending sanctifying afflictions. "In their affliction they will seek me early" Hos. 5:15; Heb. 12:4-12; I Cor. 11:30 Fifth, God faithful in fulfilling His threatenings. 1. God threatened Adam and said that in the day he ate the forbidden fruit he would die and God was faithful to His Word. 2. He threatened the world of Noah's day with a flood and He sent it. 3. He threatens to burn this world and He will. 4. He threatens to chasen His own for sins and He does. 5. He threatens the lost with eternal punishment in hell if they will not repent and believe on Christ as Lord and Saviour. REMEMBER GOD IS FAITHFUL.....

Earnie W. Lucas: Pastor
Bible Baptist Church
Appomattox, Va.

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Search of the American Chestnut

From article by Vincent J. Price SCS, Washington, D.C.

The American chestnut tree abounded in the forests. Settlers from the Old World's bounty. Colonial Americans prized its wood. American Indians enjoyed it: "Under the spreading chestnut tree. The Village smithy stands."

Many considered the tree among the most stately and beautiful in American forests. Artist painters of the Hudson River School gave it special status in their work. Today, the chestnut is a symbol of the past and of their time.

To some the American chestnut is now, for all practical purposes, extinct.

The chestnut blight, somehow carried over from Europe in the early 1900's is believed. Starting from New York city, it rapidly devastated chestnuts in the eastern half and then swept like wildfire south and west. By the early 1930's the blight had destroyed almost all American chestnuts.

Some trees still, but not quite all.

Scientists all over the East attempted to find a cure for the chestnut. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service launched an extensive research program in the 1930's to create a hybrid tree from the American chestnut and the Chinese chestnut. The American has a tall, straight trunk and is a valuable timber tree; the Chinese chestnut is usually a small tree - more a shrub than tree - and highly blight resistant.

Forest Service scientists hoped to come up with a tree that is blight resistant. But it didn't work out that way. Instead, every tree retained the shrubby shape of the Chinese chestnut. Today, the descendents of these hybrids can be found in many states, usually looking like Chinese chestnuts: low, bushy trees without any timber value.

There are a few American chestnuts left in the wild. In an area in the Great Smoky Mountains, at elevations higher than the east of the Rockies, a few trees survive, simply because the blight itself is not adapted to the elevation. But these are generally a handful.

There is a 40-year-old American chestnut in the state of New Hampshire. But it's sterile. It produces nuts, but without cross-pollination the nuts will never germinate.

Finally, there are thousands of young American chestnut saplings in eastern forests. Some of these survive long enough to produce nuts, then are blighted and die. Their nuts produce some trees that, in their turn, survive long enough to produce nuts and then die.

"Their death is in no way caused by the fruiting," explained Dave Allen, the Soil Conservation Service's state biologist in New Hampshire. "Many plants, just before they die, throw off one last effort to blossom and fruit. Perhaps it's something like that with the chestnuts."

However that may be, the young chestnut saplings do not survive much more than one blossoming - 5 years or so at most, and then the fungus finds them. Yet those few years and few blossomings have managed to keep the species alive, and might continue indefinitely.

"Give it a hundred thousand years and the American chestnut could be replaced with a blight-resistant strain," explained W. C. Young, the SCS regional plant materials specialist for the South. "Plant breeding could reduce this to a hundred years."

Plant breeding is where the Soil Conservation Service comes in. At several plant materials centers in the South, SCS has attempted to come up with a blight - resistant strain. The first step, the hardest, is to locate a mature American chestnut tree that is blight resistant. The search has been going on for some time.

Some chestnuts that are quite old have survived the blight but are not blight resistant and are of little use for propagation. This is so because the American chestnut is a prolific sprouter, and sometimes a tree will grow back up again after being killed to the base by the blight. This can happen several times - the blight killing the tree, and then the roots generating a new sprout, which also is killed. A tree such as this, though it may be 15 years old, is not blight resistant. In addition, such a tree will be misshapen. Eventually, the continued sprouting will exhaust the root system, and the tree will die.

How you can help - Do you know of a mature, healthy American chestnut tree? If you do, you can help the Soil Conservation Service in its search for a blight-resistant chestnut. Let your conservation district or the nearest SCS office know about the tree.

PORK PICKIN'S

Appomattox Pork Producers

The Appomattox Pork Producers will meet at the District Farmers Office on Main Street at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18th. Officers will be elected for the next term and possible changes in the by-laws will be made at this time. Projects for the coming year will also be discussed.

The South-Central Feeder Pig Association held their first sale on Thursday and had a record number of pigs. The total number of pigs sold was 1,078 an all time high. Top price was $66.50 cwt. for #1 & #2 weighing less than 45 lbs.

Amid the hot price-squeeze controversy over work against area farmers as hogs decline below production costs. However, agricultural officials expect hogs to be moving through out the first three quarters of 1974.

Several Virginia Porketters were recognized at the Annual Pork Industry Conference held in Richmond last week. This 1,000 member group will begin with a goal of increasing membership of about 1,200 if they were very successful

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Calendar of Events
Dec. 18th.
Appomattox Pork Producers Meeting
7:30 p.m. - Appomattox

Recipe of the Week:
APPLE-RAISIN STUFFED PORK CHOPS

6 pork chops, cut 1" thick
¼ c. milk
1 c. soft bread crumbs
1/8 t. salt
¼ t. sage
1 c. finely chopped pared apple
½ c. raisins
1 t. melted butter or margarine
2 t. lard or drippings
1 t. salt
1/8 t. pepper

Make a pocket in each chop by cutting into the chop along the bone. (Chops cut from this side hold the stuffing better.) Pour milk over bread crumbs. Stir in 1/8 t. salt, sage, apple, raisins and melted butter or margarine. Stuff each chop with about ¼ c. of apple mixture. Brown chops on both sides in lard or drippings. Pour off drippings. Season chops with 1 t. salt and pepper. Cover tightly and cook slowly 45 min. to 1 hr. or until done. 6 servings.

Words of Wisdom

It is hard to believe that America was founded to avoid taxation.

-Tribune, Chicago.

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Decorate Tree at Rocks Church

On Saturday, December 1st, the Senior Citizens of Rocks Baptist Church gathered to decorate an old fashioned Christmas tree. The afternoon was spent making sugar cookies and stringing popcorn. Red gingham bows, candy bows, candy canes, and tiny fruits were added for the finishing touch. Pictured are Bettie Ranson, Margaret Marshall, Gillette Elder, Lockie Moore and Nellie Roach.

Jeannie ON THE SPOT

Removing chewing gum from fabrics is not as sticky a problem as it might seem. Put the garment (even a shoe) in a plastic bag and let it freeze. Then the gum will come right off with a flick of the fingernail.

Chocolate stains are hard to remove unless you use glycerin (available at drugstores). Rub it thoroughly into the fabric and wash with plain water. If it doesn't come out completely the first time, additional applications will do the trick.

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